

Even after leaving the Office of Highway Safety, Frank continued to be an active and benevolent member of the Delaware community. He taught as an Adjunct Professor at Goldey-Beacom College in Wilmington, teaching courses in business and political science until his retirement in 2000. He has also served on numerous boards including the Delaware Blood Bank and the Delmarva Chapter of the American Red Cross. I congratulate and thank him for his valuable contributions and exemplary record of service on behalf of the State of Delaware. Thank you, for all you have done and continue to do for the people of our State.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN ADMINISTRATION PARDONS ACT OF 2006"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today, along with several of my colleagues, I am introducing legislation that would require the president to notify Congress upon the pardon of any Executive Branch employee. This notification is necessary because it is possible that the president could pardon an employee of his administration as a means of preventing an investigation from running its course and, perhaps, uncovering information critical of the administration. Without limiting the president's pardon authority under Article II of the Constitution, it is important for purposes of public accountability that Congress and the American public be notified when he does pardon one of his own employees.

The need for this legislation came to light as a result of the Justice Department's investigation into an administration official's leak of CIA officer Valerie Plame Wilson's identity. The indictment of I. Lewis Libby, who was the Vice President's Chief of Staff, for false statements, perjury, and obstruction of justice in connection with the investigation raised concerns that the President might use his authority to pardon Mr. Libby or other officials involved in serious criminal offenses. This is a concern because President George W. Bush refused to respond to a July 25, 2005 letter I sent seeking his assurance that he would not pardon any former or current officials involved in the leak of Valerie Plame Wilson's name. Also, a June 18, 2006 article by Tom Brune of Newsday notes that the Bush White House may gain political advantage by pardoning Mr. Libby.

This is why Congress and the American people should be informed if and when a president pardons an administration employee. The notice should include information that sets forth the complete picture surrounding the pardon. This would include: the name and government title of the person, nature of the offense, the date of the pardon, the effect of the pardon on any criminal sentence or fine that may have been imposed, whether the person was involved in any criminal or civil investigation, whether the president sought the opinion of the lead Federal investigator on whether a pardon should be granted, and the position of the lead Federal investigator on whether a pardon should be granted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 24, 2006, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 394: "yes" (S. 1496); Rollcall No. 395: "yes" (S. 203); and Rollcall No. 396: "yes" (H.R. 5534).

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB FISHER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Bob Fisher, who will begin his 13th year as President and CEO of the Nevada Broadcasters Association in August of this year.

Bob has been the driving force behind recording oral history video interviews with Nevada's pioneer radio and television broadcasters to be preserved for future generations. For the past 12 years, Bob has hosted a weekly public affairs radio program called "Observations" that airs on 17 stations. In addition, he has hosted a weekly public affairs television program, also named "Observations", that airs on four Northern Nevada stations. "Observations" is Nevada's most listened-to public affairs radio program.

Over the course of his long and distinguished career as a broadcaster, Bob has earned a number of accolades. He has earned three American Advertising Federation ADDY Awards for his broadcasting work, as well as Electronic Media Awards in 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Bob's service to the community extends beyond radio and television broadcasts. Currently, Bob serves as the State Coordinator and Chairman of the Nevada AMBER Alert Review Committee. He is a member of the Nevada Homeland Security Commission and serves as Rural Taskforce Chairman. He is also a member of the Nevada BRAC Commission, and a former President of the National Alliance of State Broadcasters Associations (NASBA). Furthermore, Bob is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Bob Fisher. Bob has been a tireless advocate for the broadcasters in the State of Nevada and has built a very respectable relationship between the broadcasters and our State and Federal Governments. I wish him the best as he continues his leadership of the Nevada Broadcasters Association.

CONCERNS WITH VIOLATIONS OF NORMAL COMMERCIAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS BY GAZPROM AND RUSSIA

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit to the RECORD an article titled "Texas Energy Concern, Assailing Big Russian and German Providers, Talks of Lawsuits" from the May 19 edition of the New York Times. The article, by Paul Meller, describes a situation impacting an important business in the 12th district of Texas.

Since 1997, Moncrief Oil International, Inc. of Ft. Worth, Texas, has held a significant contractual interest in the development of the Siberian Yuzhno-Russkoye gas field owned by Gazprom, Russia's state-owned gas monopoly. Despite Moncrief Oil's well-documented claim, Gazprom is now in the process of transferring mineral assets to European firms that infringe upon the U.S. company's commercial rights and interests.

I am concerned about this apparent violation. It is my hope that Gazprom and Russia will honor and enforce all contractual obligations relating to its strategic minerals industries.

[From the New York Times, May 19, 2006]

TEXAS ENERGY CONCERN, ASSAILING BIG RUSSIAN AND GERMAN PROVIDERS, TALKS OF LAWSUIT

(By Paul Meller)

BRUSSELS, May 18.—An American-based energy company, Moncrief Oil International, is threatening to sue two German companies, contending that an agreement they signed with the Russian giant Gazprom interfered with Moncrief's existing contracts to develop natural gas fields in western Siberia.

Moncrief—a privately owned, family-founded business in Fort Worth—has sent letters to the German companies, E.On and Wintershall, a gas-distribution unit of the German chemical group BASF, informing them of its plans to take legal action in the German courts, Moncrief's president, Jeffrey Miller, said Thursday in a telephone interview.

The threat of the suit in a German court is the latest twist in Moncrief's efforts to get Gazprom to comply with an agreement in 1997 that gave it a 40 percent stake in the Yuzhno-Russkoye field.

Moncrief contends that Gazprom has ignored the agreement and is selling stakes in the natural gas field to other companies, including the 40 percent stake Moncrief says it owns.

In a statement issued after the letter to Wintershall was sent, the company's chairman, Richard W. Moncrief, said, "While Moncrief has delivered on its side of the deal, Gazprom has not honored its signed agreement with Moncrief, instead choosing to sell a stake in the field to BASF, and perhaps E.On."

Late last month, Gazprom signed an agreement that gave Wintershall a 35 percent stake in the Yuzhno-Russkoye field in return for an increased stake in Wings, a joint venture involving Gazprom and BASF.

Gazprom currently owns 35 percent of the joint venture. But under the agreement signed last month in the Siberian city of Tomsk and witnessed by President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and Chancellor Angela